

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-37. (Cancelled).

38. (Currently Amended) An acid coated article for imparting flavor to a user comprising:  
a coating carrier comprising a drinking straw or a confectionery substrate; and  
an immobilized food grade acid composition coated onto a surface of the coating carrier for imparting an acidic flavor, wherein the acid composition comprises about 40 to 100 weight percent food grade acid, 0 to about 5 weight percent surface tension reducing agent, 0 to about 30 weight percent plasticizer, 0 to about 20 weight percent bulk agent, and 0 to about 30 weight percent water,

wherein the acid composition coating is formed by heating the acid composition sufficient for the acid composition to become fluid, applying the fluid acid composition to the surface, and then cooling the acid composition sufficiently to immobilize the acid composition on the surface of the coating carrier.

39. (Currently Amended) The coated article of claim 38, wherein the acid composition food grade acid comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of citric acid, adipic acid, acetic acid, ascorbic acid, fumaric acid, gluconolactone, phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, tannic acid, succinic acid, lactic acid, and mixtures thereof.

40. (Currently Amended) The coated article of claim 38, wherein the acid composition food grade acid comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of citric acid, phosphoric acid, malic acid, and mixtures thereof.

41. (Original) The coated article of claim 38, wherein the coating carrier is drinking straw comprising an elongated drinking tube having an interior surface and an exterior surface and formed of a fluid impermeable material.

42. (Original) The coated article of claim 41, wherein the drinking straw has an acid dosage loading of about 50 to about 5000 milligrams acid per straw.

43. (Currently Amended) The coated article of claim 41, wherein the drinking straw has an acid dosage loading ~~is from~~ of about 100 to about 1000 milligrams acid per straw.

44. (Currently Amended) The coated article of claim 41, wherein the drinking straw has an acid dosage loading ~~is from~~ of about 200 to about 700 milligrams acid per straw.

45. (Original) The coated article of claim 41, wherein the interior surface of the drinking tube is coated with the acid composition.

46. (Original) The coated article of claim 38, wherein the acid composition comprises about 40 to about 99.99 weight percent food grade acid, about 0.01 to about 5 weight percent surface tension reducing agent, 0 to about 30 weight percent plasticizer, 0 to about 20 weight percent bulk agent, and 0 to about 30 weight percent water.

47. (Original) The coated article of claim 46, wherein the food grade acid is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, adipic acid, acetic acid, ascorbic acid, fumaric acid, gluconolactone, phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, tannic acid, succinic acid, lactic acid, and mixtures thereof.

48. (Original) The coated article of claim 46, wherein food grade acid is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, phosphoric acid, malic acid and mixtures thereof.

49. (Original) The coated article of claim 46, wherein the surface tension reducing agent is a wetting agent, an emulsifier, or a surfactant.

50. (Original) The coated article of claim 46, wherein the surface tension reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of monoglycerides, diglycerides, acetylated monoglycerides, propylene glycol esters, lecithin, diacetyl tartaric acid esters of monoglycerides, glycerol esters, sodium dioctyl sulfosuccinate, polyglycerol esters, polysorbates, sodium stearoyl-2-lactylate, sorbitan esters, sugar esters, and mixtures thereof.

51. (Original) The coated article of claim 46, wherein the surface tension reducing agent comprises monoglyceride.

52. (Original) The coated article of claim 46, wherein the plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of glycerin, sorbitol, propylene glycol, maltitol, mannitol, and mixtures thereof.

53. (Original) The coated article of claim 46, wherein the plasticizer comprises glycerin.

54. (Original) The coated article of claim 46, wherein the bulk agent is selected from the group consisting of cellulose fibers, hydrocolloids, low molecular weight carbohydrates, food grade colloidal silicas, and mixtures thereof.

55. (Original) The coated article of claim 38, wherein the acid composition comprises about 79 to about 99 weight percent food grade acid, about 0.01 to about 1 weight percent surface tension reducing agent, about 0.2 to about 5 weight percent plasticizer, and about 0.79 to about 15 weight percent water.

56. (Original) The coated article of claim 55, wherein food grade acid is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, phosphoric acid, malic acid, and mixtures thereof.

57. (Original) The coated article of claim 55, wherein the surface tension reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of monoglycerides, diglycerides, acetylated monoglycerides, propylene glycol esters, lecithin, diacetyl tartaric acid esters of monoglycerides, glycerol esters, sodium dioctyl sulfosuccinate, polyglycerol esters, polysorbates, sodium stearoyl-2-lactylate, sorbitan esters, sugar esters, and mixtures thereof.

58. (Original) The coated article of claim 55, wherein the plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of glycerin, sorbitol, propylene glycol, maltitol, mannitol, and mixtures thereof.

59. (Currently Amended) The coated article of ~~claim 35~~ claim 38, wherein the acid composition comprises about 88 to about 98 weight percent food grade acid, about 0.01 to about 0.5 weight percent surface tension reducing agent, about 0.2 to about 1 weight percent plasticizer, and about 1.79 to about 10.5 weight percent water.

60. (Original) The coated article of claim 59, wherein food grade acid is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, phosphoric acid, malic acid, and mixtures thereof.

61. (Original) The coated article of claim 59, wherein the surface tension reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of monoglycerides, diglycerides, acetylated monoglycerides, propylene glycol esters, lecithin, diacetyl tartaric acid esters of monoglycerides, glycerol esters, sodium dioctyl sulfosuccinate, polyglycerol esters, polysorbates, sodium stearoyl-2-lactylate, sorbitan esters, sugar esters, and mixtures thereof, and wherein the plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of glycerin, sorbitol, propylene glycol, maltitol, mannitol, and mixtures thereof.

62-64. (Canceled).

65. (Original) The coated article of claim 38, further comprising a secondary coating which is coated onto the food acid composition coating.

66. (Original) The coated article of claim 65, wherein the secondary coating comprises a powdered ingredient adhered onto the surface of the food acid composition coating.

67. (Original) The coated article of claim 66, wherein the powdered ingredient is selected from the group consisting of food acids, sugars, fizzing agents, colorants, probiotics, vitamins, herbs, and flavoring agents.

68. (Original) An acid coated drinking straw comprising:

an elongated drinking tube having an interior surface and an exterior surface and formed of a fluid impermeable material; and

a food grade acid composition coated on at least one of the surfaces for imparting an acidic flavor, wherein the acid composition comprises about 88 to about 98 weight percent food grade acid, about 0.01 to about 0.5 weight percent surface tension reducing agent, about 0.2 to about 1 weight percent plasticizer, and about 1.79 to about 10.5 weight percent water.

69. (Original) The acid coated drinking straw of claim 68, wherein the acid composition coating is applied by heating an acid composition to a temperature sufficient for the acid composition to be fluid, applying the fluid acid composition onto the at least one of the surfaces, and then cooling the composition to immobilize the acid composition on the at least one of the surfaces, thereby forming the coating which self-adheres to the at least one of the surface of the drinking straw.

70. (Original) The acid coated drinking straw of claim 68, which has an acid dosage loading of about 50 to about 5000 milligrams acid per straw.

71. (Original) The acid coated drinking straw of claim 68, wherein the food grade acid comprises a mixture comprising two or more of citric acid, phosphoric acid, or malic acid.

72. (Original) An acid coated drinking straw comprising:

an elongated drinking tube having an interior surface and formed of a fluid impermeable material; and

a food grade acid composition coated on the interior surface,

wherein the acid composition comprises about 88 to about 98 weight percent food grade acid selected from the group consisting of citric acid, adipic acid, acetic acid, ascorbic acid, fumaric acid, gluconolactone, phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, tannic acid, succinic acid, lactic acid and mixtures thereof; about 0.01 to about 0.5 weight percent surface tension reducing agent selected from the group consisting of monoglycerides, diglycerides, acetylated monoglycerides, propylene glycol esters, lecithin, diacetyl tartaric acid esters of monoglycerides, glycerol esters, sodium dioctyl sulfosuccinate, polyglycerol esters, polysorbates, sodium stearoyl-2-lactylate, sorbitan esters, sugar esters and mixtures thereof; about 0.2 to about 1 weight percent plasticizer selected from the group consisting of glycerin, sorbitol, propylene glycol, maltitol, mannitol and mixtures thereof; and about 1.79 to about 10.5 weight percent water.

73. (Original) The acid coated drinking straw of claim 72, wherein the food grade acid is selected from citric acid, phosphoric acid, malic acid and mixtures thereof; the surface tension reducing agent is monoglyceride; and the plasticizer is glycerin.

74. (Original) The acid coated drinking straw of claim 72, which has an acid dosage loading of about 50 to about 5000 milligrams acid per straw.

75-76. (Canceled).